

## § 1918.22

(d) If the foot of the gangway is more than one foot away from the edge of the apron, the space between them shall be bridged by a firm walkway equipped with railings with a minimum height of approximately 33 inches with mid-rails on both sides.

(e) Supporting bridles shall be kept clear so as to permit unobstructed passage for employees using the gangway.

(f) When the upper end of the means of access rests on or is flush with the top of the bulwark, substantial steps, properly secured and equipped with at least one substantial hand rail approximately 33 inches in height shall be provided between the top of the bulwark and the deck.

(g) Obstructions shall not be laid on or across the gangway.

(h) The means of access shall be adequately illuminated for its full length.

(i) Unless the construction of the vessel makes it impossible, the means of access shall be so located that drafts of cargo do not pass over it. In any event loads shall not be passed over the means of access while employees are on it.

### § 1918.22 Jacob's ladders.

(a) Jacob's ladders shall be of the double rung or flat tread type. They shall be well maintained and properly secured.

(b) A Jacob's ladder shall either hang without slack from its lashings or be pulled up entirely.

### § 1918.23 Access to barges and river towboats.

(a) Ramps for access of vehicles to or between barges shall be of adequate strength, provided with side boards, well maintained, and properly secured.

(b) Unless employees can step safely to or from the wharf, float, barge, or river towboat, either a ramp meeting the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section or a safe walkway meeting the requirements of § 1918.21(d) shall be provided. When a walkway is impracticable, a substantial straight ladder, extending at least 36 inches above the upper landing surface and adequately secured against shifting or slipping shall be provided. When conditions are such that neither a walkway nor a straight ladder can be used, a Jacob's

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ladder meeting the requirements of § 1918.22 may be used: *Provided, however,* That when these requirements cannot reasonably be met, by reason of local conditions, in respect to barges operating on the Mississippi River System, other safe means of access shall be provided.

(c) When a barge, raft or log boom is being worked alongside a larger vessel, a Jacob's ladder meeting the requirements of § 1918.22 shall be provided for each gang working alongside unless other safe means of access are provided.

(d) When longshoring operations are in progress on barges, the barges shall be securely made fast to the vessel, wharf, or dolphins.

### § 1918.24 Bridge plates and ramps.

(a) Bridge or car plates used afloat shall be of adequate strength, equipped with side boards along the space bridged, well maintained, and secured against movement.

(b) Ramps for access of vehicles to or between vessels shall be of adequate strength, provided with side boards, well maintained and properly secured.

### § 1918.25 Ladders.

(a) There shall be at least one safe and accessible ladder for each gang working in a hatch. However, no more than two such ladders are required in any hatch. An adequate means of gaining a handhold shall be provided at or near the head of each vertical fixed ladder in cases where any coaming or other structural features are such that they cannot serve this purpose.

(b) When any fixed ladder is visibly unsafe, the employer shall prohibit its use by employees.

(c) Straight ladders of adequate strength, of sufficient length to extend at least 36 inches above the coaming, and suitably secured against shifting or slipping, shall be provided as necessary when fixed hold ladders do not meet the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section, except that when conditions are such that a straight ladder cannot be used, Jacob's ladders meeting the requirements of § 1918.22 may be used.

(d) When 4 inches of clearance does not exist in back of ladder rungs, the